

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a modular support panel further comprising a substantially flat wall aligned on a substantially vertical plane and extending a majority of the distance between a vehicle floor and a vehicle beltline;

~~two~~ a linkage assemblies ~~assembly~~ mounted to said support panel;

at least one roof panel, said linkage assemblies ~~assembly~~ supporting the at least one roof panel that is movable between a passenger compartment covering position and a stowed position;

a hydraulic system connected to at least one of said linkage assemblies ~~assembly~~ and operably retracting and extending said at least one linkage assembly, said hydraulic system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said support panel member ~~member~~; and

an electronic control unit mounted to said support panel, said electronic control unit being connected with said hydraulic system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said at least one linkage assembly;

wherein said modular support panel includes holes and offset surfaces on said substantially flat wall, and said wall extends transversely in said vehicle at least a majority of the distance between said two linkage assemblies.

2. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein said support panel is a removable bulkhead panel, said electronic control unit, and hydraulic pump are mounted to said removable panel.

3. (original) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a sound system speaker mounted to said removable panel.

4. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 5 further comprising a sound system speaker mounted to said wall.

5. (previously presented) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a wall member adapted to be mounted in a vehicle;

a linkage assembly mounted to said wall, said linkage assembly supporting at least one roof panel that is movable between a first position for covering a passenger compartment and a second stowed position;

a hydraulic control system connected to said linkage assembly for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly, said hydraulic control system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said wall;

an electronic control unit mounted to said wall and in communication with said hydraulic control system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly; and

a hold down bracket assembly mounted to said wall, said hold down bracket assembly adapted to lock said linkage assembly in said second stowed position.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to claim 1_6, wherein said support ~~bulkhead~~ panel ~~member~~ is removable from the vehicle in a non-destructive manner.

8. (previously presented) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a member adapted to be mounted to a body structure of a vehicle;

a linkage assembly mounted to said member, said linkage assembly supporting at least one roof panel that is movable between a first position for covering a passenger compartment and a second stowed position; and

at least one guide pin disposed on one of said member and said body structure of the vehicle, and at least one mounting hole disposed on the other of said member and said body structure, said at least one guide pin and said at least one

mounting hole cooperating to define a positioning guide when said member is assembled to said body structure.

9. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8, further comprising a hydraulic control system connected to said linkage assembly for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly, said hydraulic control system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said member.

10. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 9, further comprising an electronic control unit mounted to said member and in communication with said hydraulic control system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly.

11. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8 wherein the at least one roof panel comprises at least two hard-top, convertible roof panels.

12. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8 wherein the member is a bulkhead panel.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to claim 1_6 wherein said support the bulkhead-panel member is adjacent the back of a vehicle seat.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) A preassembled convertible roof module comprising:
a panel;
a top stack linkage system mounted on the panel prior to final vehicle assembly;
a latch motor;
an electronic controller mounted on the panel, the electronic controller being operable to control the latch motor; and
at least one guide pin projecting from the panel to assist in final vehicle assembly.

20. (previously presented) The module according to claim 19 further comprising a threaded attachment system coupled to the panel to assist in final vehicle assembly and allow the panel to be removable from the vehicle.

21. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein the electronic control unit operably controls at least a window defroster and a latch motor.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one roof panel comprises at least two hard-top, convertible roof panels.

24. (previously presented) The module according to Claim 19 further comprising a retractable hard-top roof coupled to the top stack linkage mechanism.

25. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to Claim 5 ~~6~~ further comprising controlling operation of a roof latch with the electronic control unit.

26. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to Claim 5_6 further comprising controlling operation of a lamp with the electronic control unit.

27. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to Claim 5_6 further comprising controlling operation of a defroster with the electronic control unit.

28. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly method according to Claim 1_6 further comprising moving hinge assemblies to open and close a cover, the cover concealing at least part of the a-convertible roof panel when the roof panel is fully retracted and the cover is closed.